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PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Announces Free Parking at All State Parks in Honor of Veterans Day

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

11/09/2017

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BOSTON — Continuing a tradition to honor Massachusetts' men and women in uniform, the Baker-Polito Administration today announced parking fees at Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) properties will be waived for all visitors on Veterans Day this Saturday, November 11, 2017. Additionally,

during the upcoming holiday, visitors are encouraged to participate in self-guided hikes at state parks, where there are many veterans memorials, military forts, and other notable sites located throughout the Commonwealth. The fee waiver directly corresponds with a National Park Service initiative that also provides free admission at federal parks nationwide on Veterans Day.

“This holiday weekend is an opportunity for Massachusetts to honor our brave veterans for their selfless service to protect our freedoms,” **said Governor Charlie Baker.** “We hope interested Massachusetts veterans and active duty service members are able take advantage of our state park system free of any charges as a small token of our appreciation.”

“Massachusetts is proud of our rich military history, full of brave men and women who have fought and continue to fight for the freedoms we value today,” **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito.** “The state parks system provides great locations and excellent opportunities for us all to appreciate those who served to protect our great country.”

Since the American Revolution, Massachusetts has a long storied military history with many important sites managed by the DCR, including Fort Independence at Castle Island, which was used to fortify the area’s coast; Fort Revere in Hull, first fortified by Patriot forces during the American Revolution; Massachusetts Veterans War Memorial Tower located at the summit of Mount Greylock, which recently underwent extensive renovations; and hundreds of roadways, trails, markers, pools, skating rinks, and parks named after specific Massachusetts veterans or military campaigns involving Massachusetts veterans.

“Since taking office, the Baker-Polito Administration has supported the protection and conservation of Massachusetts’ natural resources so that all residents are able to appreciate their beauty, especially on occasions as important as Veterans Day,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton.** “This annual tradition is a great way to encourage friends and family to gather at their favorite close-to-home state park while honoring our military heroes.”

“This highlights the Baker-Polito administration’s continued commitment to honoring the service and sacrifice of our veterans,” **said Francisco A. Ureña, Department of Veterans’ Services Secretary.** “It’s a wonderful opportunity for veterans to enjoy the Commonwealth’s rich heritage.”

Additionally, on Saturday, November 11, 2017, Quabbin Reservoir staff will hold programming at 2:00PM in the Visitor Center to share stories of the Massachusetts men and women who were enlisted from 1776 through the Korean War.

“The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation is thrilled to once again provide free parking for veterans, their families, and the public at all state parks across the Commonwealth this upcoming Veterans Day,” **said DCR Commissioner Leo Roy.** “We are proud to care for so many of

Massachusetts’ cultural and historic resources honoring those who have served in the armed forces, and this Veterans Day will be an excellent opportunity for visitors to explore the state parks system.”

Furthermore, the Department of Conservation and Recreation also offers free parking at its facilities year round to cars with Disabled Veterans license plates from all states. To find a full list of all DCR managed state parks, please visit the agency's [website](#).

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DCR manages state parks and oversees more than 450,000 acres throughout Massachusetts. It protects, promotes, and enhances the state's natural, cultural, and recreational resources.

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